

HOUSE RESOLUTION 139
By Scroggs

A RESOLUTION to recognize and congratulate Dr. James W. Meredith, Pastor; the staff, and members of Whitehaven Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee on the celebration of this venerable institution's 150th anniversary.

WHEREAS, the work of our Lord Jesus Christ always begins with a vision; and

WHEREAS, the formation of the great legacy which has become the Whitehaven Baptist Church saw its proud genesis in 1888 with the foundation of the Nonconnah Baptist Church, the original Baptist Church in Whitehaven; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 1997, the members of Whitehaven Baptist Church started a year-long celebration of their church's 150th anniversary, a birthday occasion that will surely bring great joy to the hearts and souls of the church's faithful congregation; and

WHEREAS, Whitehaven Baptist Church's 150th anniversary shall witness the church's devout congregation's praising the Supreme God of all grace and faithfulness, and bringing into remembrance the saints who have gone before, weaving the tapestry of the legacy of the church through labors, sacrifices, and dedication; and

WHEREAS, during the Civil War church services were interrupted; and

WHEREAS, the church was permanently reorganized as the Whitehaven Baptist Church on September 13, 1885, and the Reverend A. W. Lamar was called as part-time pastor; and

WHEREAS, on February 16, 1898, the first Women's Missionary Society of the church was formed through the inspired guidance of Reverend J. W. Lipsey; and

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WHEREAS, from 1932 forward through the tenured pastorates of Rev. W. C. Furr, Dr. Lewis D. Ferrell, and Dr. James W. Meredith, the Whitehaven Baptist Church's exemplary record is one of achievement and growth; as the area of Whitehaven grew, the church also expanded the church plant, its activities, ministries, and staff to meet the spiritual needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, during the course of this religious institution's illustrious history, Whitehaven Baptist Church has been the thankful recipient of heaven-sent growth; with the advent of school busing to achieve racial balance in the public schools, and the formation of private schools, and population movement to newly-developed suburbs in Shelby County and to the south in Mississippi, membership of many churches in the Whitehaven vicinity became smaller; and

WHEREAS, Whitehaven Baptist, a community church with a heart for Memphis, has continued its Christian outreach in obedience to God's law of love as to no respecter of persons; and since God's house is a house of prayer for all people, the right hand of fellowship and open doors of welcome remain the hallmarks of our loving acceptance of all believers in like faith; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Meredith has proven himself to be the guiding light of Whitehaven Baptist Church by his optimism, encouragement, and "for your good and God's glory" preaching and distinguished pulpit presence; and

WHEREAS, responsible religious institutions are indeed the foundation of a solid and sane society, and the Whitehaven Baptist Church, a prominent and enduring Christian fixture in Memphis for more than a century, and is a humane and caring church that perpetually seeks to disseminate the teaching of Jesus Christ and whose congregation is ever eager to assist those in need; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and congratulate Dr. James W. Meredith, the Pastor; the staff, and members of Whitehaven Baptist Church on the occasion of its 150th anniversary, and that the theme of Let The People

Rejoice go forth within the city of Memphis and around the world to seal the joyful and steadfast commitment to the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by God's people in this place. The sustaining blessings of God and enduring heritage of ministry make it possible for Whitehaven Baptist Church to press on toward the ever changing challenges of the emerging century ahead, in the confidence that God works all things together for good to them that love Him, and are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28 from the Holy Bible).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution, with this final resolving clause deleted, be duly prepared, authenticated and distributed.